



乙一 Otsuichi

1976年福岡県生まれ。

「夏と花火と私の死体」で

第6回ジャンプ小説・

ノンフィクション大賞を

受賞しデビュー。いろいろあって

現在は東京に在住。

4LDKの部屋で友人と

共同生活を送っているらしい。

大岩ケンヂ Kendo Oles

1978年群馬県生まれ。

お茶の水周辺をズブ濡れで

50円玉片手にフラフラしている所を、

通りすがりの担当Mに拾われ現在に至る。

あの時のコーヒーの恩恵に報いるため、

今日もマンガを描いていたり

いなかったり。

ゴ
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O
T
H
イ
ス

9784047135536



1920979005808

ISBN4-04-713553-4

C0979 ¥580E

定価：本体580円(税別)角川書店

原作 漫画

乙 大
一 岩
ケン
ヂ

「原作」 乙一 「漫画」 大岩 ケンヂ



ゴ
ス

[STORY] OTSU-ICHI
[ART] KEIJI OOKUBO
[TRANSLATION] KATYDID

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...it's
burned
into
my
mind.

...that
juttet
out of
her
very
black
sleeves

...no-
ticed
the
scar
on her
wrist

...

...like
snow-
white
porc-
lain...

Ever
since
I first

...

NO

I
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ス
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カ
ツ
ト
事
件

W
R
I
T
T
E
N
B
Y
S
I
M
O
K
U
R
A
T
S
U
K
U





GOOD
MORN-
ING!



...and a
fake
smile to
add to
that...

YOU
MEAN
THE LIVE
TELE-
CAST,
RIGHT?



Blabbering
about TV
shows...
I'll just
agree with
her...



THE STORY
ABOUT THE
HANDS!

NO! THE
NEWS YES-
TERDAY!



It's best if
I pretend
to be as
cheerful
as my
school-
mates.

HELLO!

DID YOU
WATCH
IT TOO
YES-
TER-
DAY?



MY
THOUGHTS
EXACTLY!



YEAH! I
WATCHED
IT!

THE
CHOPPED-
OFF HANDS
ARE MISSING
WITHOUT A
TRACE.



WHO?

I HEARD
THAT SOME-
ONE AT OUR
SCHOOL HAS
A GLARING
SCAR ON THE
WRIST TOO

THAT'S
TERRIBLE!



THE POOR
GIRL! SHE
SPEAKS TO
NOBODY AND
SEEMS TO
HAVE NO
FRIENDS AT
ALL...!

ARE YOU
KIDDING?
SHE LOOKS
GREAT!

YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
MORINO,
RIGHT?



I've
always
kept that
to myself.

I'm no
normal
teenager.

As a
child
I...

I have
na idea
why I
did it.

*** Superstar missing
without a trace.

* The 7th Case in a Row
** Wrist Cut

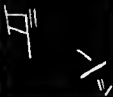


Adults'
hands,
children's
hands,
animal
paws...

Until
today
nobody
has been
mur-
dered.



He chops
them off
and takes
them with
him.



So the
perpe-
trator is
only
after.



...the
hands.



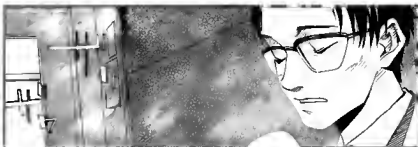


He's
just as
obsessed
as I am.



I want to
have her
hands...!

Morino's
hands...



ANY VOLUNTEERS WHO'D LIKE TO GIVE ME A HAND?



RIGHT! THE CHEMISTRY ROOM HAS TO BE CLEANED DURING THE LUNCH BREAK.



DON'T FORGET! THERE'S A TEST TOMORROW!





YOU'RE DEFINITELY BEING EXPECTED THERE!



WHO'S SO DUMB AS TO HELP YOU CLEAN UP?

Don't say that!



Chemistry room...?

It's possible that Mr. Shinohara prepared the test for tomorrow there.



...some notes from the test tomorrow are still lying around there?!



* Chemistry Room



YOU'RE CRAZY!

May-be ...



I WASN'T
EXPECTING
ANYONE.



THANK
YOU
FOR
HELP-
ING!

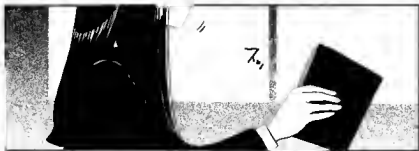


SURE!
I'LL
DO IT!

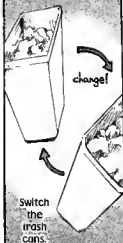


COULD YOU
BRING THE
TRASH CAN
TO THE NEXT
ROOM?

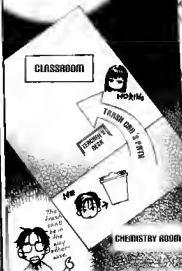




I've hidden another trash can in the classroom, especially for this.



When Mr. Shinohara cleans up the chemistry room, he always brings the trash can that's full to the classroom first.



This is my plan!

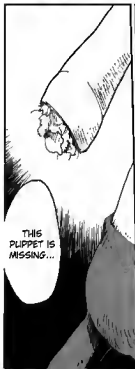
for the test tomorrow!

This way I can look through

...the hidden trash can later for the notes he made...







THIS
PUPPET IS
MISSING...

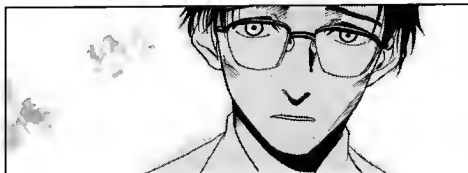




...its
hands!



Wel-
come
back!





missed

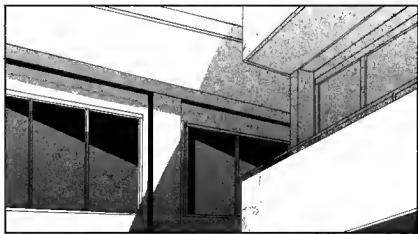
...

we've

...

you

...





Even if
he's,
where is
he hiding
the other
hands?



The
puppet
isn't a
conclusive
proof...



...that
he's the
perpe-
trator.



THE CLASS-
ROOM IS
CLOSED TO
YOU ALL
FROM NOON.

A TEACHER'S
MEETING IS
TAKING
PLACE IN THE
CLASSROOM
TODAY.



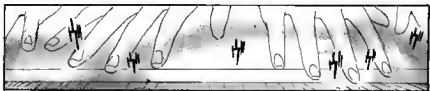
JUST A
MOMENT
PLEASE!



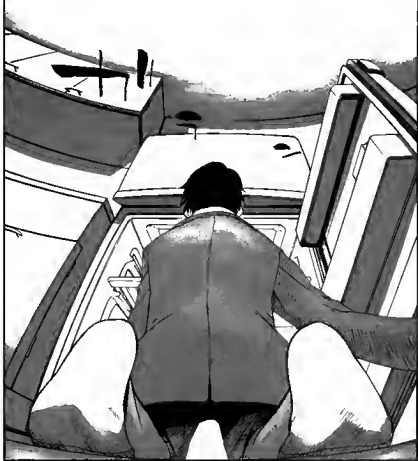


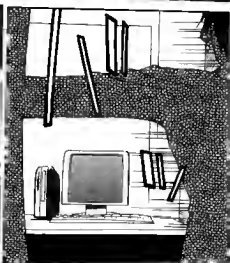














IT WAS
HER
DOING!







A close-up of a hand holding a hairbrush. The hand is wearing a white sleeve with a small dark mark. The hairbrush has a dark handle and a light-colored head.

THIS IS
YOUR
HAIR,
ISN'T IT?

す
7

?

A close-up of a woman's face. She has long, straight black hair with bangs. She is looking down and to the left with a serious expression. She is wearing a dark turtleneck.

YORU
MORINO
...





I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT!

HELP!

LET
ME
GO!



SHINO-
HARA

...

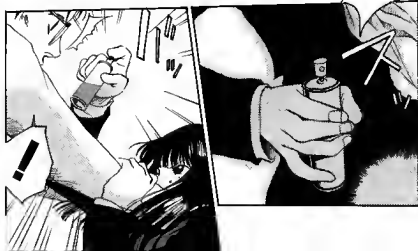
...MY
SISTER
ALSO HAS
RAVEN-
BLACK
HAIR.



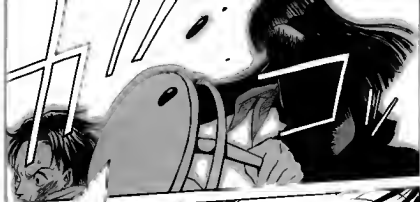
JUST
LIKE
THAT
GIRL'S.



Answer
me!







H
E
E
L
P
P
P
!





...and
expelled
from the
school.

After this
incident,
the hand
robber
was
exposed
as a sex
offender...



...to have
Morino's
hands.

And I so
wanted
...



...that
Shino-
bue
would
cut
Morino's
hands
off as
punish-
ment.



...and
take all
the
hands
with
me...



I'd hoped
that if I
were to
leave a
hair from
my sister
in the
apart-
ment...



HELLO
...!

COULD YOU
PLEASE TELL
ME YOUR
SECRET TO
BEING SO
COOL ALL
THE TIME?



IT WAS A
WARM
spring
after-
noon...

...at the
beginning
of May...



MORINO
?

We quickly
found out
we had
similar
interests.

That
was the
first
time we
talked
to each
other.



NOTH-
ING!

...of my
failed
project!

But when
I see her
white
hands,
they
always
remind
me...



WHAT'S
WRONG
?



Marina
accepted
my lack
of feeling
in her...

...nice
but unin-
teresting
way.



For the
first time
I played
with the
thought...

...of
killing
Morino.

II

暗黒系

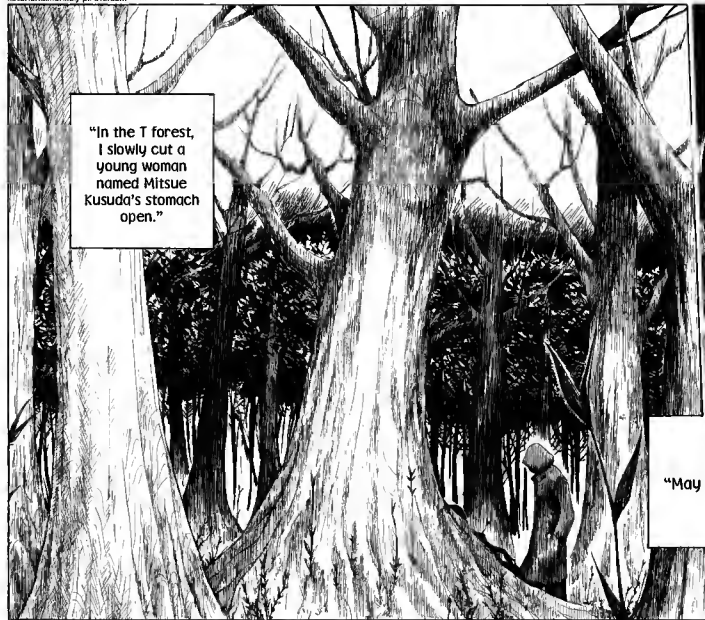
G o t h

But that
has nothing
to do with
this story.



It just
became
fixed in my
thoughts.

c a s e ; I



"In the T forest,
I slowly cut a
young woman
named Mitsue
Kusuda's stomach
open."

"May 10:"





"July 21: I chatted
up a woman
named Kasumi
Nakanishi who was
standing at the
bus stop with her
shopping basket."

case ;2



"...she calmed
down at last in a
small hut in the H
forest. I started
cutting her to
pieces very
slowly. First."







WHY?



IT'S AN
UNUSUAL
CASE!



RIGHT!

I FIND
THIS CASE
VERY EX-
CITING!



I under-
stood her
perfectly
because I'd
been fol-
lowing the
news every
evening...

...due to the
very same
reason.



* "...Nonami Mizuguchi with her red..."





"I got to know
Nanami Mizuguchi in front of
the noodle shop
near the S
mountain."



"There was a
temple in the
forest on the
south side of
that mountain.
I went
there with
her."



IN MY
FAVORITE
CAFE. IT'S
ALWAYS
NICE AND
QUIET
THERE.



WHERE
DID YOU
FIND
THIS?



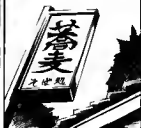




WE'VE TO
GIVE THE
NOTEBOOK
BACK TO
THE KILLER
...

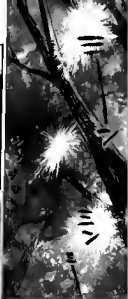
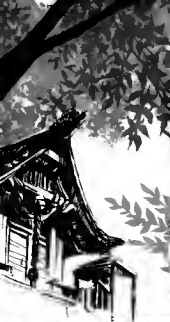


...
OTHERWISE
WE'LL BE
INDIRECTLY
RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE NEXT MUR-
DERS!



THAT'S
HARDLY
IMAGIN-
ABLE!









Morino stood speechlessly before the corpse; she then picked up Nonami Mizuguchi's clothes and stuffed them into her bag.

It's hard to believe that this victim once looked like a human being.

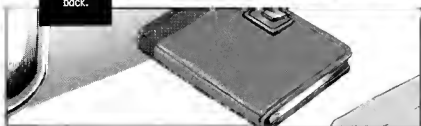
We found her tied to a tree. Her organs had already turned black.

That was our first and last encounter with Nonomi Mizuguchi.



She
wanted the
notebook
that I'd
borrowed
back.

Several
days went
by before
Morino
contacted
me again.



HELLO.
MAY I
HELP
YOU?



HAVE
YOU BEEN
WAITING
LONG?







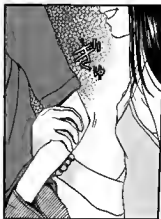
DON'T TELL
ME YOU
INTEND TO
STAY THIS
WAY.



Nanami
Mizugu-
chi



WHY NOT?
IT'S FUNNY!

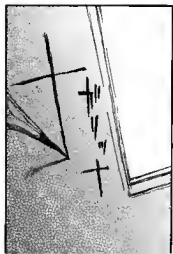


LET'S GET
GOING!

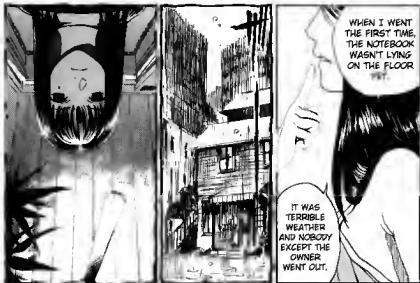
SURE!



AS
YOU
WISH.





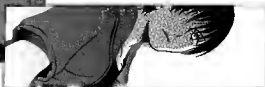




...I had a
queasy
feeling in
my stomach.



As we
parted at
the train
station...



Mitsue
Kusuda,
Kasumi
Nakanishi,
and now...

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

OK!

SAKURA!
THE
GOYA
SAUCE!

...
Nanami
Mizu-
guchi.

LIKE THE
PREVIOUS
VICTIM!

DOESN'T SHE
LOOK LIKE
THE OTHER
ONE FROM A
WHILE BACK,
BROTHER?

生前の中世
なまのなかよ

* In remembrance of [Kasumi] Nakanishi...





What
motive
could
the killer
have?



REPENT
...



REPENT
...

REPENT
...



REPENT
...



SINS THAT
ARE BEING
REPEATED
CONTINU-
OUSLY.

SIN LEADS
TO GUILT.

CAN YOU
TELL ME
THAT?

...HOW
CAN YOU
STILL
REPENT?

BUT IF
YOU CAN'T
CARRY
ANY MORE
GUILT...



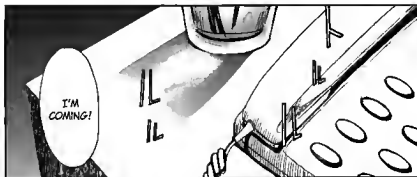


She
hadn't
shown
up for
two days.

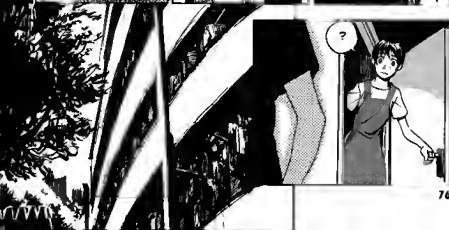


The next
morning I
got a
message
from her.











When the
killer sees
Morina
dressed as
Nanami
Mizuguchi...



...with my
own eyes!



...will he
kill her?!

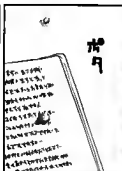


I'd love
to see
that...

I don't know for
certain that he's
holding Morino
captive anyway.

The better
question would
be if the killer
would commit
another crime.









SORRY! I
FORGOT
ABOUT IT
AGAIN.

MORINO DID
MENTION
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
ONCE.



NO, THANKS!
I'M A FRIEND
OF YORU
MORINO. YOU
KNOW HER,
DON'T YOU?



ONLY
REGULARS
COME TO
THIS CAFE.

OF
COURSE!

SHE'S A
REGU-
LAR
HERE!



AND...?

IS SHE
STILL
ALIVE?





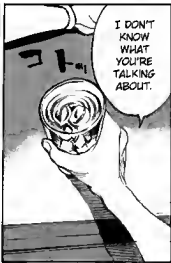
DO YOU
RECOGNISE
IT?



...THE
OTHER
DAY.

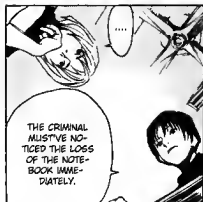
!

SHE
FOUND
THIS
NOTEBOOK
HERE...

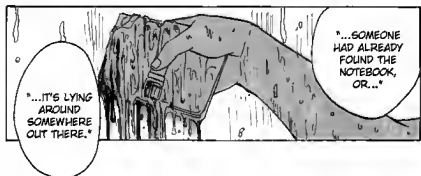


I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.











...WAS
YOU,
WASN'T
IT?

...WHO WENT
OUT IN THAT
HORRIBLE
WEATHER...

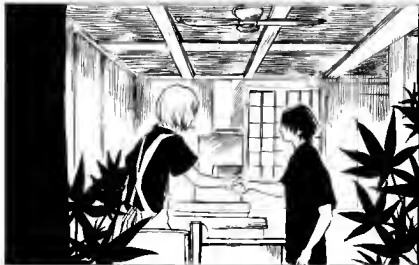
THE ONLY
ONE...



I REALLY
THOUGHT I
HAD LOST IT
OUTSIDE!

BRAVO!







WHO KNOWS
...



THE BILL
PLEASE!

'SCUSE
ME!



HUH?

WHERE
DID HE
GO?



I'm sure
about
that!

He'll
probably
never
return to
this city.





WHEN I WAS
CAUGHT, I
JUST MAN-
AGED TO
SEND YOU A
TEXT MES-
SAGE.



HE'S
NOT
COMING
BACK!

HEEEYY!

UNTIE ME
BEFORE
HE COMES
BACK!



GOOD
QUES-
TION
...!



WHY?





Morino probably never noticed that he was the serial killer.

I took the knife set and a few pages where he'd drawn crosses as souvenirs.



'Till today I
still haven't
figured out
what the
crosses
mean, but...

...the
knife
still
glistens
so
magi-
cally
and
cold.



Why
not?



YOU CAN'T
GO HOME
ANYMORE!



I want
to go
home!!







Three
years
have
passed
since
then.



...the need
to bury
someone I
love.

...as I put the
neighbour's kid into a
wooden box and
buried him alive, I
felt for the first time...

On that
day...



One day,
the missing
boy disap-
peared into
obscurity.



But I felt
this need
slowly
creeping
up on me
again...

YES!

...the
need to
bury o
person
olive.

















CAN
YOU
HEAR
ME?



I'M
SORRY!



Please!



Help
...!

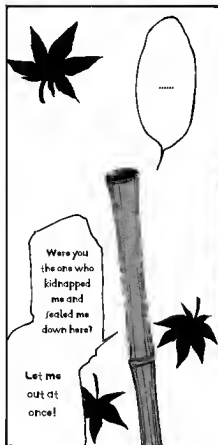


Who
are you?

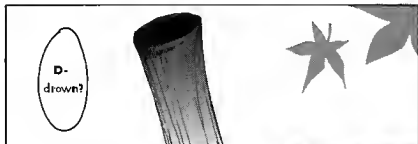


Can
some-
one...

...
hear
me?











...like
black
ink in
water.

Her last
words
spread
through my
heart...











LUCKILY,
NOT MUCH
GOES ON
AROUND
HERE!



LEAVES!

GOOD!
LOOKS LIKE
NOBODY'S
BEEN HERE
YET!



CAN I
HELP
YOU?







THE CRY
MUST'VE
BEEN LOUD!

I SEE. WELL,
THAT PERSON
TAKES THIS
PATH EVERY
DAY.



...NO.



ARE YOU
A FRIEND
OF THAT
GIRL?

AND
YOU?



YES...!

YOU
COULD
SAY
THAT.





IN FRONT OF
THE POLICE
STATION
THERE'S A
MAP WITH
SPOTS
MARKED IN
RED...

...WHERE
DEADLY ACCI-
DENTS HAVE
TAKEN PLACE.



I LIKE SNOOP-
ING AROUND
PLACES WHERE
CRIMES HAVE
TAKEN PLACE.



I'M HERE
BECAUSE I'M
CURIOUS!

CURI-
OUS?



OTHER
THAN
THAT
...

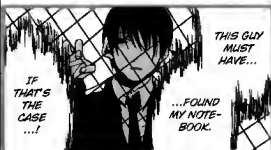
...IT'S
ALWAYS
POSSIBLE
THAT...



TO HAUNT
CRIME SCENES
AND TO LOOK
FOR DETAILS IS
MY PASSION.

I ENJOY IT A
LOT, STANDING
ON A SPOT
WHERE A BODY
LAY NOT TOO
LONG AGO.





The whole
time I was
thinking of
how I'd take
care of him.

I couldn't
concentrate on
our conversation.

I can't
remember
what we
talked
about on
the way
back.



I'M WONDER-
ING WHERE
MORINO COULD
HAVE DISAP-
PEARED TO...



A WON-
DERFUL
GARDEN!



WOULD
YOU
LIKE A
CUP OF
TEA?

THANK YOU
VERY MUCH!
A REAL
PIECE OF
NATURE
ISN'T IT?





JUST
WHAT
DID I
...

...DO
WRONG
?



YES
HELLO!

I loved
Kosuke
too.

I was so
friendly and
likeable in
the past.

When did I
become scum
that would
kill a person
without hesi-
tating?



HOW DID
HE...

...LOOK
LIKE
THEN?



KOSUKE
?





ISN'T SHE
BURIED
UNDER-
GROUND?



I DON'T
GET IT!





On the
same
evening



There was
no sound to
be heard
from her.

...every
attempt to
talk to her
failed.





WHO
WAS THE
GIRL
THIS
AFTER-
NOON?



SHE
COULDN'T
HAVE ES-
CAPED,
COULD
SHE?

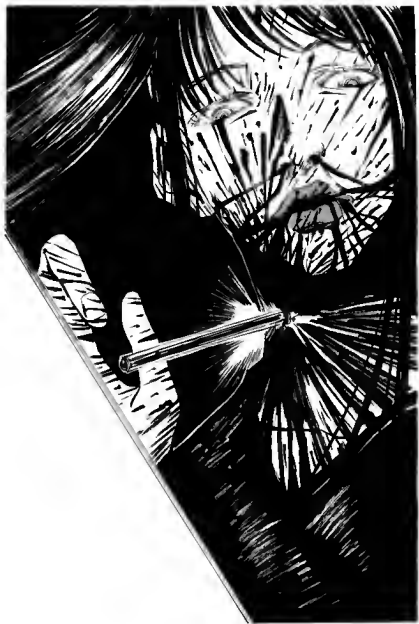


IF THIS
ISN'T
YORU
MORINO
...



...THEN
WHO THE
HELL DID
I BURY?











EVER SINCE
YOU TOLD ME
THAT YORU
MORINO HAS A
MOLE UNDER
HER LEFT EYE...

...I'VE
SUSPECTED
YOU

DID YOU
KNOW
FROM THE
BEGIN-
NING...

...THAT I
DID IT?



MORINO MUST
HAVE DROPPED IT
AND THIS GIRL
PROBABLY FOUND
THAT ON HER WAY.

B-BUT
...

...SHE
HAD THE
SCHOOL
ID...!



THEN YOU
FOUND MY
NOTEBOOK
AFTER ALL?





* Police



Why was I
born with such
a black soul?

...and lost
all sense
of time.

It was as if I
was sealed
into a coffin...



THE
BAMBOO
STICK WAS
FOR HER TO
BREATHE
THROUGH,
RIGHT?



EVERY-
THING
OKAY?



I DON'T
KNOW,
BUT...



YOU SEALED
HER IN THE
BOX AND
THEN BURIED
HER ALIVE.

WHY DID
YOU DO
THAT?



...
YES.



...I DID IT
BECAUSE...



...I
WANTED
TO.



...BUT I'M
GLAD
THAT I
UNDER-
STAND
NOW!



I DON'T
THINK I'LL
BE FOR-
GIVEN JUST
LIKE THAT...



I'LL GIVE
MYSELF
UP TO THE
POLICE!



AND ABOUT THE
DEAD GIRL'S
FRIEND, YOU
DON'T NEED TO
WORRY ABOUT
HIM.

?



I WON'T
STOP YOU
FROM DOING
THAT, MR.
SAEKI...



HE'LL TAKE
CARE OF
THINGS
HIMSELF.



...BUT
COULD
YOU...

...PLEASE
WAIT HALF
A YEAR OR
AT LEAST A
MONTH?





It
happened
on a hot
summer
afternoon
...

IV

RUFF

RUFF

I
n
s
I

RUFF

I was just in
the 2nd
grade when
I saw a dead
body for the
first time...

RUFF









What I...



RUFF
RUFF



...saw
there...



...was my
own
death!



RUFF
RUFF



IV

記憶へ前編





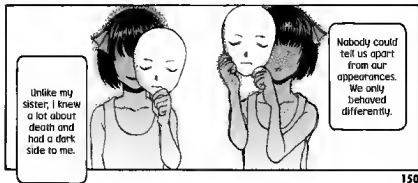




Back then
we lived in
the country-
side and
hardly had
any friends.

We loved to
draw and to
play pranks.
Often we
pretended
to be dead
and
surprised
other
people.

I had a
twin sister
named Yu.
We were
insepa-
rable and
played
together
every day.



Unlike my
sister, I knew
a lot about
death and
had a dark
side to me.

Nobody could
tell us apart
from our
appearances.
We only
behaved
differently.



Yu was so weak, that she did whatever I told her to.



I came up with the idea, to play dead at the roadside and surprise people.



...until she started crying

But when I wanted to feed our dog bleach, she defended the dog...



I loved watching Yu cry.



But I couldn't forgive her for that







THE
SAFETY
ROPE THAT
SHOULD'VE
HELD HER
HAD
SNAPPED.



SHE
DREW THIS
PICTURE
SHORTLY
BEFORE
HER
DEATH.

I
THOUGHT
THAT YOU
HAD SENT
IT TO ME.



IT WAS A
TRAGIC
ACCIDENT
...!

SHE
WANTED TO
SURPRISE
OUR FAMILY
AGAIN AND
HUNG HER
SELF



OF ALL
THE
PEOPLE I
KNOW...

...YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
COULD
BE...

...INTER-
ESTED
IN MY
PAST.



WHY
WOULD
I DO
SOME-
THING
LIKE
THAT?



WHAT
ELSE!

I WAS RE-
SEARCHING
ABOUT...

...PREVI-
OUS
MURDER
CASES.



SOMETHING
ELSE FOR A
CHANGE. WHAT
HAVE YOU BEEN
READING SINCE
YESTERDAY?







He's
addicted
to murder
and
torture.

Such
people
are often
called
"Goths."



Still, we
are very
different.



...FROM THE
INTERNET?

DID YOU
GET THIS
PHOTO...



He loves
seeing
flesh and
blood
but...

...I prefer
to see, how
someone
suffers
before
death and
cries in
pain.

SQUEAK!



THIS
PHOTO!



HE COMES
TO THE
LIBRARY TO
RESEARCH
MURDERS
EVERY ONCE
IN A WHILE
TOO.



I GOT IT FROM
A SCHOOLMATE
FROM AN-
OTHER CLASS.
THIS PHOTO
WAS NEVER
PUBLISHED.

PLEASE
DON'T TELL
ME IT WAS
YOU?!



HMMM!



THE VICTIM'S
HAIRSTYLE IN
THE PHOTO
DOESN'T RE-
SEMBLE WHAT
WAS SHOWN ON
TELEVISION AT
ALL.

BUT
STILL
YOU
GUESSED
COR-
RECTLY!



ME?



SOMETIMES
I GET THE
IMPRESSION
THAT YOU
WOULD
LAUGH AS
IF YOU HAD
NO SOUL.

SORRY! I
DIDN'T
WANT TO
BOTHER
YOU
ABOUT IT!



WITH ME, THE
OPPOSITE IS
TRUE!

I'M NOT
LIKE
YOU!



I NOTICED
THAT AL-
READY!

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT!









ONE OF MY
SCHOOL-
MATES
TURNED UP
HERE RE-
CENTLY?



WHAAAT
!!?



WHAT
DID YOU
TELL
HIM,
MON?

DIDN'T I
MENTION IT
BEFORE?
IT'S BEEN
ALMOST A
WEEK!

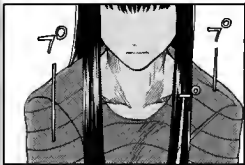


IS
SOMETHING
WRONG?

BACK WHEN
YOU STILL
LIVED IN THE
COUNTRYSIDE.











LIE?



EVER SINCE YOU
FOUND OUT MY
SISTER HUNG
HERSELF, YOU'VE
BEEN DIGGING
AROUND IN MY
PAST!



YOU WERE AT
MY HOUSE
LAST WEEK
AND...



DON'T PLAY
WITH ME!
YOU'RE THE
ONLY ONE
WHO KNOWS
WHERE I
LIVE!

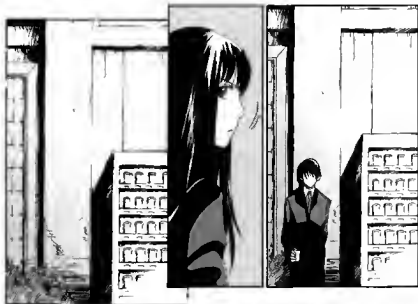


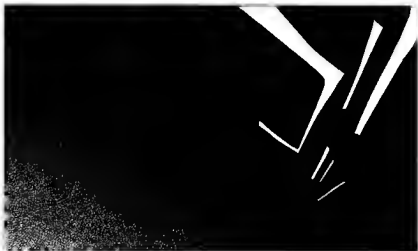
AT YOUR
HOUSE?

...YOU
ASKED MY
MOTHER
ABOUT MY
SISTER.

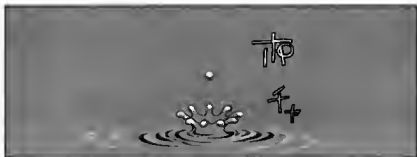












Why
didn't you
save me?





THE
DEATH
WAS
MEANT
FOR
YOU!



AWAKE
AGAIN?



!



WHO
ARE
YOU?







V

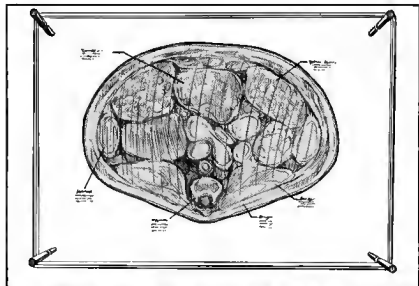
記憶へ後編

T W I N S



Kotonoha

Manga-Sketchbook





I can still
remember
his gaze
exactly



The first
time I
saw him,
we were
in 9th
grade.

In a museum
where plas-
ticized body
parts and
anatomical
displays
were on
show

I knew from
the beginning
that this boy
is dangerous.



So cold and
without
feeling as
if...

...I was
standing
in front
of death
himself.



THERE
ARE
PEOPLE
...



I
BELONG
TO...



...WHO KILL
OTHER
PEOPLE,
AND PEOPLE
WHO ARE
KILLED.



...THE FIRST
CATEGORY!



I
KNEW
IT!

IT HAD
TO END
THIS
WAY!



...DIE
HERE?

WILL
I...



WHY DID
YOU COME
IF YOU
KNEW?

BECAUSE
OF YOUR
SISTER,
OR...





WHY
DON'T WE
TALK A
LITTLE
LONGER?



... DID
YOU
WANT
FOR ME
TO KILL
YOU?



I...

... HAVE
ALWAYS
FOUND YOU
INTEREST-
ING.

TO TELL YOU
THE TRUTH,
I WAS EVEN
IN LOVE
WITH YOU!



I'VE ALWAYS
FELT THE
DESIRE TO
"WORK ON"
YOUR FLESH



BINGO!

THE
PHOTO
IS MINE!



THEN
THE
PHOTO
...

...
WAS
...!



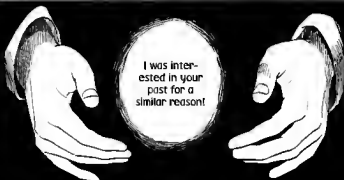
IT WAS
THE ONLY
WAY...

...TO AP-
PEASE MY
DESIRES.



THIS NEED
BECAME
STRONGER
FROM DAY
TO DAY,
UNTIL I
COULDN'T
...

...RESIST IT
ANYMORE.
THAT'S WHY
I HACKED
ANOTHER
PERSON TO
PIECES
HERE!







I
always hid
behind
her sister.

Compared
to her older
sister, Yu
was very
shy.



BUT STILL
THEY
PLAYED
TOGETHER.

YORU DIDN'T
LIKE THAT
AND ALWAYS
MADE FUN
OF HER,
UNTIL SHE
STARTED
CRYING.



THAT'S WHY
WE DIDN'T
KNOW AT
FIRST, WHICH
OF THE TWO
HAD DIED.



IT WAS
VERY DIFFI-
CULT TO
TELL THEM
APART.





...THAT IT
WAS YU,
FROM THE
SHOEPRINTS

THAT'S
HOW WE
COULD
TELL...



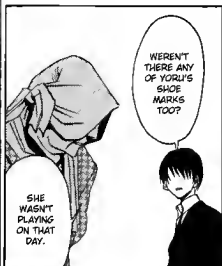
THE
GROUND
WAS SOFT
FROM THE
RAIN, SO
...

...THAT THE
MARKS FROM
YU'S SHOES
WERE CLEARLY
IDENTIFIABLE.



I can still remember how she stood before her sister.

She didn't shed a tear.



WEREN'T THERE ANY OF YORU'S SHOE MARKS TOO?

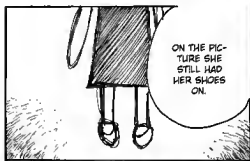
SHE WASN'T PLAYING ON THAT DAY.



...but it seems like that ended it once and for all!

While it's true that you almost never saw her laugh or cry before the incident...













...AND...

...SENT
ME THE
PICTURE!



SO IT
WAS
YOU!



YOU WERE
WATCHING ME
THE WHOLE
TIME. I KNEW
THAT IT WOULD
COME TO THIS
EVENTUALLY!

EVER SINCE
YOU FOUND
OUT ABOUT
MY SISTER,
YOU'VE JUST
BEEN WAITING
FOR THIS
OPPORTU-
NITY...







KAMI-
YAMA!



...THE
THING THAT
MADE ME
VERY PER-
PLEXED.

I TOO WAS
VERY INTER-
ESTED IN
THIS CASE
AND I FOUND...



YU?



IT'S GENER-
ALLY KNOWN
THAT PEOPLE
TAKE OFF
THEIR SHOES
BEFORE THEY
COMMIT
SUICIDE.

BUT THEY'D
PUT THEM
NEATLY NEXT
TO THEM-
SELVES.



THE
SHOES!



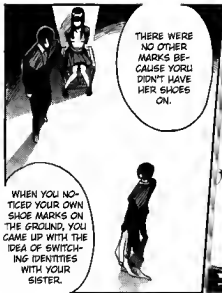
YORU
SURELY
WOULDN'T
HAVE MADE
THIS MIS-
TAKE

...in a
mess.



But
according
to your
grandma...

...the
shoes
were
lying...



THERE WERE
NO OTHER
MARKS BE-
CAUSE YORU
DIDN'T HAVE
HER SHOES
ON.

WHEN YOU NO-
TICED YOUR OWN
SHOE MARKS ON
THE GROUND, YOU
CAME UP WITH THE
IDEA OF SWITCH-
ING IDENTITIES
WITH YOUR
SISTER.



It was
Yoru's turn
to hang
herself
back then

You didn't
want to let
this chance
slip by and
cut the
safety
rope.



AM I
RIGHT?
"YU"
MORINO?



YEP!



HAVE
YOU
BEEN
FOLLOW-
ING ME...

...FOR A
LONG
TIME AL-
READY?



WHEN I WAS
SURE THAT
YOU WERE
THIS PERSON,
I DIDN'T LET
YOU OUT OF
MY SIGHT
ANYMORE.

TAKAMI!



MORINO GAVE
ME A PHOTO
THAT SHE GOT
FROM A
SCHOOLMATE
IN ANOTHER
CLASS.

I FOUND OUT
THAT THIS
SCHOOLMATE
WAS ALSO
LOOKING INTO
MORINO'S
PAST.















The
floor
was
covered
with
blood...

My
bindings
were
loosened
and there
was no
trace of
the two.

When I
came
to, four
hours
had
passed.



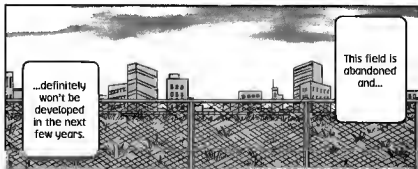




After the
fight, I
buried his
body behind
the ruins.



I had to
lie to
her...



...definitely
won't be
developed
in the next
few years.

This field is
abandoned
and...





IS THE
STORY
TRUE?

DID YOU
KILL YOUR
SISTER?

IT WAS
AN ACCI-
DENT!

...AND
WANTED
TO PLAY A
PRANK ON
OUR PAR-
ENTS
AGAIN



WE WERE
TOGETHER IN
THE SHED...





DO IT
AL-
READY
!!

YOU
USE-
LESS
GOOD-
FOR--
NOTH-
ING!!



...until
she...

HURRY
UP!
SAVE
ME!!

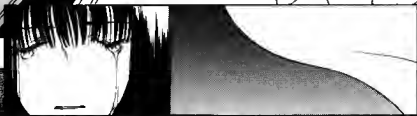


AFTER
THOSE
WORDS
...

...MY
STRENGTH
LEFT ME.







THE END

Postscript

I'd like to explain to you a bit what the term "Goth" means. It's very difficult to render the term "Goth" in a word. People who run about in black jackets with white make-up and crucifixes around their necks are often labelled as "Goths." A film critic thinks on the other hand that the actress Angelina Jolie, who supposedly collects torture devices privately, can be called a "Goth."

By the way, the story in "Goth" has a simple concept. The heroine, always kidnapped by monsters, is rescued by her hero. This idea has already been used widely in earlier fantasy stories. In our story, characters like spectres, devils, vampires or werewolves were replaced by unusual and cruel criminals. My goal is to entertain the readers with this manga, not to go into the gruesome details. Who wants to talk about gruesome crimes anyway?

My special thanks to all the readers and to Mr. Kenji Ooiwa, who helped turn my novel into a fabulous manga.

-Otsuichi

OTSUICHI, born 1978 in Fukuoka, was awarded the 6th Jump Shosetsu Non-fiction Prize for his work "The Summer, the Firework and My Corpse". Today he lives with friends in a Tokyo apartment.

KENJI OOIWA, born 1978 in Gunma. As he was staggering around on the street near Ochanamizu, with a 50-yen coin in his hand, completely drenched and at the end of his strength, his eventual editor saved him and gave him a coffee. If he had not helped in this way, Kenji Ooiwa would probably not be drawing manga anymore today.